

# GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA A B S T R A C T

Public Services – Treasuries & Accounts Department – Nizamabad District – Criminal and Disciplinary Proceedings against Late Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd.), District Treasury, Nizamabad for payment of pension & gratuity against fake & forged defense PPO without verifying specimen signatures of the pension sanctioning authority – Misappropiration of Govt. funds for Rs.60,333/- at District Treasury, Nizamabad – Late Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd.), District Treasury, Nizamabad expired on 06-06-2014 – Further action abated under Sub Rule 7(a) under Rule 9 of A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980 – Orders – Issued.

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# FINANCE(ADMN.I)DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 1504.

Dt: 04-04-2015 Read the following:

- 1.RJD Charge Memo.No.A3/2339/99-5, dt.25.07.1999.
- 2.G.O.Rt.No.1079, Fin. &Plg. (FW.Admn.I) Dept., 19.06.2000.
- 3.Govt.Memo.No.47684/261/A2/Admn.I/99, dt.13-09-2000.
- 4. Inquiry report of Sri D.Tavudu, RJD, T&A, Region- I Visakhapatnam vide Lr.No.A1/604/99, dt.22.12.2000.
- 5.Memo.No.13529-D/129/A2/Admn.I/01-2, dt.23-12-2003.
- 6.Explanation of Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd.), District Treasury, Nizamabad dt.26-02-2004.
- 7. G.O.Rt.No.3442, Fin. (Admn.I.Vig.) Dept., dt.22.09.2009.
- 8.Lr.No.G3/2144/2014, dt.29-11-2014 of Director of Treasuries & Accounts(I/c), Telangana Hyderabad along with theapplication of Smt.Razia Sultana, W/o Late Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd).

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#### ORDER:

The fake Pension Payment Orders of Defence Pensions were received by the Treasury Department in Visakhapatnam, Guntur, Cuddapah, Adilabad, Nizamabad, Medak, Mahaboobnagar and Nalgonda Districts and an amount of Rs.37,18,910/- was fraudulently drawn by the bogus military pensioners. In Nizamabad District, the imposters have created fake Pension Payment Orders of Military pensioners on the fake pension payment and paid Rs.7,20,671/- due to non verification of the specimen signatures before making payments by the treasury personnel at District Treasury, Nizamabad. Disciplinary proceedings were initiated against the following Treasury personnel who were involved in the case of payment of amount on fake Pension Payment Orders in the NizamabadDistrict.

1.SriA.Raja Ram, ATO(Retd.)

# 2.Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd.)

- 3.SriSyed Abid Ali, STO(Retd.)
- 4.Smt. T.V.Sarojini, SA(Retd.)
- 5. Sri MeharullahQuadri, STO(Retd.)
- 6. Sri G.Narendar, S.A.(Retd.).

- 2. In the reference 1<sup>st</sup> read above, the Regional Joint Director, Treasuries and Accounts Department, Region-III, Hyderabad initiated disciplinary action against Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd.), District Treasury, Nizamabadalong with other Treasury personnel, who were involved in the case of payment of amount on fake Defence PPOs.
- 3. Government issued orders for regular inquiry under A.P.C.S.(CC & A) Rules 1991 vide reference 2<sup>nd</sup> read above by appointing Sri D.Tavudu, Regional Joint Director, T &A, Regional-I, Visakhapatnam and Sri G.Veeranna, Regional Joint Director, Region –III, Hyderabad as Presenting Officer.
- 4. Besides disciplinary action, in the reference 3rd read above, Government have issued orders to entrust the case to CBCID for further investigation. The CID has taken up investigation in (8) districts and filed charge sheets in the concerned courts. The CID has also filed charge sheet against Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd.),in Cr.No.91/99 u/s 419, 420, 465, 468, 471, 477-A, 409, 109 IPC r/w 120(B) & Sec.13 (I) (D) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 of Nizamabad I Town Police Station and the trial is pending in the court of V Addl. Chief Judge cum Principal Special Judge for SPE & ACB cases court at Hyderabad.
- 5. The following Articles of charge was framed against Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd.), District Treasury, Nizamabad vide reference 1st read above.

## **CHARGE-I**

6. That the said Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, Assistant Treasury Officer, District Treasury, Nizamabad while functioning as Assistant Treasury Officer, District Treasury, Nizamabad during the period, 1-8-98 to 30-11-98 has forwarded the P.P.Os to the Head Quarters Sub Treasury Nizamabad without proper scrutiny of the genuiness of the P.P.Os and without verifying the specimen signatures of the P.P.O issuing authority / sanctioning authority which has been resulted for fraudulent payment to a tune of Rs.3,59,613/- irregularly to bogus Military Pensioners on forged and fake P.P.Os which caused financial loss to Government.

#### **Defence statement of Charged Officer:**

7. Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, the charged officer has stated that he has verified the basic items like the signature, the format, instructions of C.C.D.A(P), Allahabad. While forwarding the P.P.Ps(fake) to pension Disbursing Authority. Had the individual, in the capacity as Assistant Treasury Officer, District Treasury, Nizamabad scrutinised the P.POs with reference to instructions of C.C.D.A(P), Allahabad the fake P.P.Os would have not been forwarded to the Pension Disbursing Authority and thereby there would be no fraudulent. Further stated that he has verified the basic items like signature, the format, the photos etc., which are available in the Descriptive Rolls, Regarding minute checks, they are to be dealt in by the Senior Accountant and the concerned Sub Treasury Officer who are two level down to him. He stated that at the ATO cadre, it cannot be expecte to verify every check as he is dealing with many other subjects like civil pensions, Audit of Bills of various departments issue of stamps, strong room and Accounts etc., Finally the charged officer has requested to drop the charge on similar lines as was done in case of Sri K.Bhaskara Reddy, Assistant Accounts Officer vide G.O.Rt.No.244, dt.25-02-2000.

#### FINDINGS OF THE ENQUIRY OFFICER:

- 8. In this case, the Charged Officer being the Asst. Treasury Officer, holding multifarious responsibility in the District Treasury as he expressed in the explanation found to be realistic, reasonable and convinced. The Charged Officer being the Asst. Treasury Officer, to look after many subjects, may be difficult for him to conduct proper scrutiny. Hence his explanation was convincing and can be considered to absolve of this charge.
- 9. On the basis of documentary and oral evidence adduced in the case before the Inquiry Officer and in views of the reasons given above taking into consideration, the opinion of the Presenting Officer, expressed in his written brief that the charge against Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, Assistant Treasury Officer, District Treasury, Nizamabad is not proved.
- 10. Consequent on retirement of Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd.), District Treasury, Nizamabadon 31-12-2002, the Director of Treasuries and Accounts has forwarded the case to the Government for taking action against him under Rule 9 of A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980.
- 11. Government, after careful examination of the report of Enquiry Officer with reference to the charge framed against Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd.), has not agreed with the findings of the Inquiry Officer and concluded that the charge framed against the delinquent are held not proved and issued a show-cause notice along with Enquiry Report vide Memo 5th read above, to submit his explanation as to why a punishment of withholding of pensionary benefits should not be imposed on him under Rule 9 of A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980.
- 12. The Charged Officer, Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd.), in his explanation vide reference 6<sup>th</sup> read above, has stated that while working as Asst. Treasury Officer, District Treasury, Nizamabad during the period from 01-08-1998 to 30-11-1998 forwarded the PPOs to the Head Quarters Sub Treasury Officer, Nizamabad without proper scrutiny of the genuiness of the P.P.Os and without verifying the specimen signature of the P.P.O. issuing authority / sanctioned authority resulting to bogus Military Pensioners on forged and fake P.P.Os caused financial loss to Government vide Memo.No.A3/1468/99-3, dt.24-07-1999 of the Regional Joint Director, Hyderabad.
- He has further requested to make available the documents concerned 13. for submission of his statement of defence. Since may persons are involved in the payment of Military Pensions in several districts. Government have been pleased to appoint Sri D.Tavudu, RJD through G.O.Rt.No.1079 Fin.(Admn.I)Dept., dt.19-06-2000 as Enquiry Officers. During the enquiry he has stated that he verified the basic items like the signature, the format, the photos etc., which are available in the Descriptive Rolls. As regard minute checks, he stated that they are to be dealt with by a Senior Accountant and STO concerned who are two level down to him. Further stated that it cannot be expected by him to verify every check as Accountant Treasury Officer in as much as he was dealing with many other subjects. The proposed action is entirely discriminatory and is violative of Article 14 and 16 of the constitution of India. In a case pertaining to Sri K.Bhaskara Reddy, ATO(Retd.), DT, Cuddapah who also signed a memo. addressed to the Sub Treasury Officer, Cuddapah in a similar case of Military Pensions, Government have dropped action against him and his pensionary benefits were released fully without taking action under Rule 9 of A.P.R.P.Rs 1980. He has further stated that there are no specified reasons have been furnished by the Government for disagreeing with the findings of the Enquiry Officer. In view of the above circumstatnees and facts of the case, he requested the Government kindly drop the proposed action under Rule 9 of the A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980 and order to release his pensionary benefits as charge is not proved.

- 14. In the reference 7<sup>th</sup> read above, Govt. have ordered to release the DCRG in respect of those who have retired from service and those who have expired duly withholding the amount of loss that occurred to the Government exchequer on account of the alleged action of the charged officers, which as apportioned by DTA against each charged officer without prejudice to the departmental proceedings and criminal proceedings pending against them.
- 15. As the matter stood, in the reference 8<sup>th</sup> read above, the Director of Treasuries and Accounts has stated Smt. Razia Sultana, W/o Late Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd.) has informed that her husband Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, A.T.O.(Retd.) has expired on 06-06-2014 while furnishing the copies of provisional pension and death certificate of her husband, she has requested to settle the issue and release full pensioner benefits and also to sanction family pension.
- 16. In this regard, the DTA has stated that while working as ATO, District Treasury, Nizamabad Late Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, A.T.O.(Retd.) involved in the fraudulent drawal of Military Pensions on fake PPOs and Charges have been framed against the individual vide Memo.No.A3/1468/99-3, dt.24-07-1999 of RJD, Region-III, Hyderabad.
- 17. Further, the DTA has stated that against the total amount of Rs.7,20,671/- fraudulently drawn in Nizamabad District based on fake Military PPOs, an amount of Rs.60,333/- has been apportioned in respect of Late Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd.), AG, AP, Hyd. Accordingly, while withholding the apportioned amount, Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO has also sanctioned the DCRG to the said above charged officer duly withholding the apportioned amount of Rs.60,333/-. Hence the DTA has requested to issue the abatement orders on the further departmental proceedings in respect of Late Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, A.T.O.(Retd.), District Treasury, Nizamabad.
- 18. Government, after careful consideration of the matter, hereby abates further action in Criminal and the Disciplinary Proceedings initiated against Late Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, Assistant Treasury Officer(Retd.), District Treasury, Nizamabad under sub Rule 7 (a) under Rule 9 of A.P.Revised Pension Rules, 1980, as he has expired on 06-06-2014, subject to withholding the apportioned amount of loss of Rs.60,333/- from the DCRG of the deceased Charged Officer.
- 19. The Director of Treasuries and Accounts(I/c), Telangana, Hyderabad shall take necessary further action in the matter accordingly.

## (BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNER OF TELANGANA)

## K. RAMAKRISHNA RAO SPECIAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT(IF)

То

Smt. Razia Sultana, W/o Late Sri Mir Aqtedar Ali, ATO(Retd.)O/o District Treasury, Nizamabad through the Director of Treasuries and Accounts, Telangana, Hyderabad. The Director of Treasuries and Accounts(I/c), Telangana, Hyderabad.

The Addl. Director General, CID, A.P., Hyderabad.

Copy to:

The Accountant General (A&E), A.P., Hyderabad.

The District Treasury Officer, Nizamabad.

The Secretary, Telangana Vigilance Commission, Telangana Secretariat, Hyderabad.

#### // FORWARDED BY ORDER //